



value of more than \$50 million, was seized by CNP officers working with DEA, from two locations in Bogota, Colombia, before it could be shipped.

ROMERO-PADILLA was found guilty of both counts of the Indictment against him: conspiracy to distribute cocaine knowing that it would be imported into the United States, and the substantive distribution of cocaine knowing that it would be imported into the United States. Although each of these charges carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, the United States provided assurances to the Government of Colombia as part of the extradition process that a life sentence would not be sought. ROMERO-PADILLA is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge COTE on June 13, 2008, at 3:00 p.m.

This case was the result of "Operation Caso Dorado," an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force investigation conducted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (the "Office"), and the Bogota, Colombia, and New York offices of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA"), with the cooperation of the United States Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), Colombian and Mexican law enforcement authorities, the New York City Police Department, and the New York State Police Department.

Mr. GARCIA praised the cooperative investigative efforts of the DEA, and also commended Colombian law enforcement officers for their partnership in the case.

The case is being handled by the Office's International Narcotics Trafficking Unit; MARC P. BERGER and KEVIN R. PUVALOWSKI are in charge of the prosecution.

08-36

###